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| ART |
| Colin Knight  Director of Transportation & Highways  Coventry City Council  c/o VeryLightRail@coventry.gov.uk | |  |
| xx January 2021 |  |

Dear Colin

Ref: XXXX Support for Coventry Very Light Rail and Dudley National Innovation Centre

I am writing to confirm that xxxxx supports the development of Coventry Very Light Rail (VLR) and Dudley’s National Innovation Centre (NIC).

xxx are strongly supportive of the collaborative Very Light Rail projects, as not only will they deliver an affordable, rail based transport solution for smaller cities and towns, they will mobilise a new manufacturing sector in the West Midlands, creating high value training and job opportunities associated with design, construction and information technology. The region will be at the forefront of developing innovative R&D capability for light rapid transit, which can be exported to other areas of the UK and abroad. Now that Brexit has happened and with climate change remaining high on the agenda, it’s critical that the UK develops new technologies which will enable the UK to deliver tangible solutions to address air quality whilst simultaneously creating jobs and supporting the West Midlands Industrial Strategy.

The NIC will provide a unique engineering facility, adjacent to a railway test track, that will enable companies across the West Midlands, including Coventry, to secure help in the development and evaluation of new products relevant to the emerging very light rail sector as well as the transfer of technologies developed in other market sectors. The NIC will be an important element in the development of the Coventry Very Light Rail transport system, enabling the technology to achieve proof of concept ahead of the first route in Coventry being constructed. Similar schemes are already being considered for other cities, so there is expected to be a sizeable opportunity for manufacturing companies across the West Midlands including Coventry.

The transport network in Coventry has seen a number of improvements in recent years and the introduction of VLR to the city will continue to boost the economy by offering a new mode of sustainable travel and improve air quality.

Yours sincerely

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